

# State of Vermont

## House of Representatives



**Montpelier, Vermont**

### **Concurrent House Resolution**

**H.C.R. 277**

House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont State Grange

Offered by: Representatives Turner of Milton, Canfield of Fair Haven, Devereux of Mount Holly, Donahue of Northfield, Hebert of Vernon, Hubert of Milton, Johnson of South Hero, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Larocque of Barnet, Lewis of Berlin, McFaun of Barre Town, Savage of Swanton, Shaw of Pittsford, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Whereas, the Grange, officially known as The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is the oldest agriculturally based organization in the United States, and

Whereas, the Grange was established in 1867 to help farmers recover from the effects of the Civil War and to organize them to protest the high shipping costs the railroad monopolies had established, and

Whereas, in order to avoid railroad officials' detection, Grange meetings were held in secret, and

Whereas, a few years later, in 1876, the Bridgewater Corners Grange Hall became the first in Vermont, and

Whereas, the Grange led the struggle to establish rural free mail delivery and to expand electricity in rural areas, and today, the Grange supports efforts to improve Internet availability in rural areas, and

Whereas, from the day of its formation, the Grange gave women and young adults equal status within the organization, including the right to vote and hold office at any level, and

Whereas, in the early 20th century, the Grange was a leading force in the women's suffrage movement, and

Whereas, in 2014, the Grange continues advocating for human rights having recently signed a letter to the U.S. Congress calling for the doubling of legal immigration and legalization for illegal immigrants currently in the United States, and

Whereas, local Granges in Vermont serve as the home for a variety of locally based activities including giving dictionaries to students, offering classes on preserving food, and providing space for dances and other community events, and

Whereas, the General Assembly appreciates the community service of Vermont Grange members, and the work of Vermont State Grange President Errol Briggs and of former leaders Everett Willard, Daryl Lowry, Harold Bergeron, Margaret Richardson, Dale Sanderson, Lester Gibbs, Phyllis Mason, Clyde Berry, the late Richard Brouillette, and the late former Representative Kermit Richardson who served as both State Grange President and National Grange President, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Vermont State Grange, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont State Grange.